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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Extraordinary additional session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1995

Administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decision of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1995/8)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. Following its eleventh session, held from 21 November to 9 December 1994, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights transmitted to the Economic and Social Council a draft decision by which the Council would, on an exceptional basis, authorize the Committee to hold an extraordinary session of three weeks' duration in 1995 and a special five-day meeting of the Committee's pre-sessional working group, to be held immediately following the conclusion of the Committee's twelfth session, in order to prepare for the consideration of States parties' reports during the extraordinary additional session of the Committee (see E/1995/8). The Committee was provided with an oral statement of the administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decision, with an indication that a written statement would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

2. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights normally holds one three-week session towards the end of each year. A pre-sessional working group meets for one week approximately three to four months in advance of each

* E/1995/2.

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session. Travel and subsistence costs are paid to the 18 members of the Committee attending the annual session and to an average of 5 members participating in the pre-sessional working group. By its decision 1992/259, the Economic and Social Council authorized, on an exceptional basis, the holding of an extraordinary session of the Committee, of three weeks' duration, in 1993. Subsequently, the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/219, approved revised estimates in an amount of US$ 118,000 for the biennium 1992-1993 to cover the cost of that extraordinary session.

3. Should the Council adopt the draft decision referred to in paragraph 2 above, the dates of the meetings of the Committee and of its pre-sessional working group in 1995 would be as follows:

1-19 May 1995 - Twelfth session of the Committee;

22-26 May 1995 - Additional meeting of the pre-sessional working group;

20 November-8 December 1995 - Extraordinary additional session of the Committee (thirteenth session);

11-15 December 1995 - Meeting of the pre-sessional working group for the fourteenth session of the Committee, to be held in May 1996.

4. The estimated full cost for convening the additional meetings of the Committee and its pre-sessional working group would be as follows:

A. Substantive costs

		US dollars
(i)	Travel and subsistence of 18 members of the Committee attending the additional session (three weeks in Geneva)	129 700
(ii)	Subsistence of 5 members of the Committee attending the additional meeting of the pre-sessional working group (five days in Geneva)	8 400
	Total	138 100

B. Conference-servicing costs

	US dollars
(i) Additional session	
3 weeks: 30 meetings with interpretation (A,E,F,R,S) and summary records (E,F,S), 27 documents, 210 pages (A,E,F,R,S)	600 300
(ii) Pre-sessional working group	
5 days: 8 meetings with interpretation (E,F,R,S), 28 documents, 625 pages (E,F,R,S)	432 500
Total	1 032 800
Grand total	1 170 900

5. With regard to conference-servicing costs, the resources provided under section 25E (Conference services) of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 were estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings known at the time of the budget preparation but also meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1994-1995 were consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 25E of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for conference-servicing of the extraordinary additional session of the Committee and the additional meeting of its pre-sessional working group.

6. With regard to substantive costs ($138,100), provision for travel and subsistence costs has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 under section 21 (Human rights) only for one annual session of the Committee and one annual meeting of the pre-sessional working group. At this stage, it is not anticipated that the additional costs of $138,100 could be absorbed within the overall resources appropriated under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

7. Should the Economic and Social Council approve the draft decision of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights contained in document E/1995/8, it is estimated that additional requirements of $138,100 would arise under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

8. Under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources available from low-priority

areas or modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium.

9. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the decision may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211.